



CITY OF LONG BEACH

Press Release

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE THREAT OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN THE COMING MONTHS

Long Beach- West Nile Virus (WNV) continues to be a public health concern in Long Beach. Although WNV has not been documented in the City of Long Beach yet this season, WNV activity has already been reported in Los Angeles County this month with two dead birds testing positive for the disease. No human cases have reported so far this year. In 2009, a total of 112 human WNV infections, including 4 deaths, were reported statewide (one in Long Beach). The City of Long Beach reported three positive birds, two positive mosquito samples and one positive sentinel chicken in 2009. With the recent rainy season and the onset of warmer weather creating an ideal environment for mosquito breeding, the City of Long Beach Health Officer, Dr. Helene Calvet, is urging residents to protect themselves from the virus by taking precautions to avoid mosquitoes. People will be spending more time outdoors in the upcoming warmer months, it is important for residents to take appropriate precautions to reduce their risk of contracting WNV infection. To reduce the risk of exposure to the virus, Long Beach health officials are advising residents to take the following precautions:

- Avoid mosquito-infested areas especially at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Mosquitoes can breed in standing water. Eliminate standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected ponds, birdbaths, fountains, buckets, old tires or anything that can hold water. Dumping or draining water will interrupt the mosquito life cycle.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you plan to be outdoors at dawn or dusk.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Residents should follow instructions on the label. Consult with your child's pediatrician for appropriate concentrations of DEET to be used on children under the age of two.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes and check to make sure your window screens are in good condition.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and drain water from pool covers.
- Limit the watering of lawns and outdoor plants to twice a week to avoid run off to gutters and around sprinklers.
- Report dead birds and dead tree squirrels to the California Department of Health Services by calling 1-877-WNV-Bird or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For further information, contact the City of Long Beach DHHS, Vector Control Program at (562) 570-4132 or online at www.longbeach.gov/health.

Further information about the WNV may be obtained at the State of California Department of Health Services website at www.westnile.ca.gov, or at the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile.

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